



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 28, 2008

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Banach
Councilor Boni
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Bowen
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Lenares
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Councilors Absent

Councilor Nagel

Staff Present

Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant
Ann Harter, Director of Finance

III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A Teacher of the Year – Thomas Myler

Mayor Wright read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Thomas Myler, a Kindergarten teacher at Elizabeth Green School, has been designated as Newington's 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myler was selected based upon his exceptional skill and dedication to children and the teaching profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myler is intelligent, a strong communicator, an advocate for all students, and a strong believer that public education is the vehicle to prepare all children for participation in our society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myler earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut in 1985, a Masters Degree in Elementary Education from the University of New Haven in 1994, and completed additional graduate course work in Early Childhood Education from Central Connecticut State University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myler began teaching in Newington in 1994 as a second grade teacher and served in various other grade levels, including two years of teaching at a magnet school; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Myler has been very active in professional development activities, participating in a number of workshops and presentations; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Myler is also involved in the Association of Childhood Education International and the Connecticut Early Childhood Association and has been nominated for the Presidential Award for Teachers of Math and Science and the Sally Mae First Year Teacher Award;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:
That the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Thomas Myler as Newington's Teacher of the Year and extends its sincerest congratulations and appreciation to him for his dedication and commitment to Newington's children.

Mr. Myler thanked the Town for the honor.

Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Myler for all he has done and remarked that his work exemplifies the Town's tradition of excellence in education. Councilor Banach congratulated Mr. Myler on behalf of himself and his children, Christopher and Grace, who were taught by Mr. Myler. Councilor Bowen thanked Mr. Myler, and stated that the children of Newington appreciate his efforts. Councilor Boni offered his congratulations to Mr. Myler.

Public Comment:

Sharon Braverman, Board of Education Member: Mrs. Braverman commented that she is proud to have such a high quality of teachers in Town, and proud of the Town's educational system. She encouraged Mr. Myler to keep up the good work.

Wendy Krauss, Principal of Elizabeth Green Elementary School: Mrs. Krauss congratulated Mr. Myler. She remarked that he is a phenomenal teacher who always puts the children first. She noted Mr. Myler's commitment to the Town and stated that he is always willing to go above and beyond both for the school and for the community.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent)

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to add item XIV – Executive Session, Re: Personnel to the agenda. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted the phone line used at Board of Education meetings for public participation and inquired whether the line could be used during Council meetings. She remarked that many members of the public are unable to attend meetings and others cannot stay for the entire meeting to wait to make comments at the end of the meeting.

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A Naming of Edward S. Seremet Room in the Town Clerk's Office

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

WHEREAS, Edward S. Seremet began his tenure with the Town of Newington in 1940 when he was appointed Selectman's Clerk by First Selectman Edmund Keleher; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Seremet was appointed Town Clerk in 1945 for an unexpired term and served 35 years as a Municipal Clerk; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Seremet was confirmed by the electorate in the regular election of 1945, compiling the highest vote total among candidates contending for all offices, setting a precedent for biennial elections thereafter until 1966 when the Town Clerk position was made appointive by a new Town Charter; and
WHEREAS, Ed Seremet also served as the first Clerk of the Town Council and was designated by the Town Council to serve for extended periods on two occasions as Acting Town Manager and was subsequently honored with the title of "Town Manager Emeritus"; and

WHEREAS, Ed's knowledge of the Municipal Clerk's function came to be relied upon for its precision and reliability by local officials, other Municipal Clerks, attorneys and the public at large; and
WHEREAS, Ed took innovative steps to modernize record keeping operations, such as being among the first clerks in the nation to microfilm land records, and was one of the first Municipal Clerks in the United States to become a Certified Municipal Clerk; and
WHEREAS, Ed Seremet served as president of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and as Legislative Chairman for that organization, was a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, was involved in several voter-making campaigns sponsored by Secretaries of the State and helped revise the "Handbook for Connecticut Town Clerks; and
WHEREAS, Ed Seremet also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, was a charter member of the Newington Knights of Columbus, former financial secretary of the Polish American Club of Newington, a 35 year veteran of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department, and a member of the Indian Hill Country Club; and
WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council wishes to recognize, posthumously, the many accomplishments of Edward S. Seremet;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby dedicates the vault in the Town Clerk's Office in the name of Edward S. Seremet and authorizes a plaque be placed outside the vault area to commemorate Mr. Seremet's many years of dedicated and professional service to the Town of Newington.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen.

Deputy Mayor Lenares explained the naming process and stated that the Naming Subcommittee has come to the decision to name the vault in the Town Clerk's office after Mr. Seremet. Councilor Cohen remarked that Mr. Seremet was a fixture in Town for many years and certainly deserves the recognition. Councilor Banach stated agreement that the honor is well-deserved.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

Mayor Wright noted that Town Manager Salomone is not present at the meeting due to illness.

B NHS Air Conditioning – Phase II

Councilor Cohen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Part 1, Article X, Section 8-45, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves the final plans and cost estimates for the Newington High School Air Conditioning Project, Phase II, as reviewed by the Town Council and as approved by the NHS Track Renovation Project Building Committee on October 16, 2008 and the Board of Education on September 24, 2008. Authorization to go out to bid was given by the State School Facilities Department on October 8, 2008. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager and the NHS Track Renovation Project Building Committee to secure competitive bids for the project.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen.

Councilor Cohen noted that the language added to the resolution that states, "**Authorization to go out to bid was given by the State School Facilities Department on October 8, 2008.**", and noted that the Council has received cost estimates on the project. Councilor Boni inquired whether there is a chance that the State can rescind the funds previously approved for the project. Mayor Wright replied in the negative.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

C Town Hall Heating System Replacement Building Committee – Change Name and Scope

Councilor Bottalico stated that the heating phase of the project is complete and commented that the Committee should be renamed in order to move into Phases II and III of the Town Hall building project. Mayor Wright explained that there was funding left over from the heating project, which will be rolled into the next phases of the Town Hall renovation.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Project Building Committee is hereby renamed as the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee. Said committee is charged to work with the Town Manager (and/or his/her designee), Superintendent of Schools, and any other appropriate Town staff in the oversight of renovations to the Town Hall, including the space formerly occupied by the Police Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the current members of the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Project Building Committee will continue to serve on the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen.

Councilor Bowen stated that the Committee was originally charged with replacing the boilers and the project ended up with some excess capital. He noted that it was determined upon recommendation by the Facilities Manager that the next step should be to renovate the old police facility on the lower level in anticipation of moving people around during the renovations to the remainder of the building. He noted that the original charge to the Committee has been completed.

Councilor Boni noted that the project came in on time and under budget and congratulated the Committee and Mr. Korpak for a job well done. Councilor Cohen inquired about the plans for the lower level and cautioned the Committee not to plan any work that would have to be undone when the final use of the area is determined. She noted that there had been discussions about using the area for the Art League and NCTV, and noted its past use as a music room and as a police training area. Councilor Bottalico replied that the Committee will now be able to move forward with planning for the area and stated that he is unsure whether the plans for the area will include use by NCTV or the Art League. He stated that the Committee will report back to the Council when it has more information. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that the area has already been stripped of all hazardous materials and is ready for renovation. She agreed with Councilor Cohen that forethought should be used when planning renovations to the area. Councilor Bowen noted that equipment in the area has been relocated outside of Town. He stated that while the Committee may not be the correct venue to address the issue, the issue should be addressed. Councilor Cohen expressed concerns that the move of the equipment outside of Town was to be a temporary move and that the training area was paid for by former Police Commissioner Monnier's widow. She stated that the equipment should not be located outside of the Town.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A Recommendation of Pension Investment Advisor

Mayor Wright noted that the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee has gone through the RFP process for the Town's pension investment advisor and is now at the point of making a recommendation. Ann Harter, Finance Director, stated that the Committee met on October 16 and reviewed the finalists for the advisor firm. She stated that the Committee has recommended that the Town stay with its current advisor, UBS Financial Services.

Councilor Bottalico, Committee member, stated that he was satisfied with the Committee's decision. Councilor Boni inquired as to why the Committee decided upon UBS. Councilor Bottalico replied that UBS offered a better program than the other candidates did. Councilor Bowen noted that the Committee sent the RFP as due diligence, but it had also discussed other post-employment benefits, and noted that while UBS does not offer support in that area the Committee felt that the USB program best fits the needs of the Town. Mrs. Harter stated that UBS has been the Town's advisor for ten years, and stated that with the market in its current state it is best to stay the course.

B Proposed Job Description Amendments – Groundskeeper IV

Mayor Wright noted that the Council has received the proposed amendments and stated that any questions can be addressed to the Town Manager at the next meeting. Councilor Boni inquired whether salary ranges should

be included on job descriptions. Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, replied that it would not be appropriate to include salary ranges on job descriptions because salaries change yearly but the job description does not change yearly. Councilor Boni requested to have the salary range included in the memo to the Council. Ms. Verreault stated that the Town is looking to promote someone to the Groundskeeper IV position.

VII RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- A Central Connecticut Health District
 - 1 Acknowledge Resignation of Andrea Urciuoli
 - 2 Appoint a Replacement (none)

Mayor Wright noted that there are openings available on the Central Connecticut Health District and asked those interested to contact the Town Manager's office.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Andrea Urciuoli from the Central Connecticut Health District, in accordance with a letter dated September 24, 2008.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

- B Conservation Commission
 - 1 Acknowledge Resignation of Richard Shaffer
 - 2 Appoint a Replacement

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Richard Shaffer from the Conservation Commission, in accordance with a letter dated September 22, 2008.

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following to the Conservation Commission:

7 members, 3 alternates, 4 year term
Maximum from one party: 5
Remaining members: 2 Dem., 3 Rep.
Alternates: 2 Dem., 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Toni Vasi	12 Pfister Drive	R	IMMED.-11/30/11	Vacant (R. Shaffer res. 9-22-08)

Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Lenares. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

- C Appointments to Other Boards and Commissions

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

17. Conservation Commission

7 members, 3 alternates, 4 year term

Maximum from one party: 5

Remaining members: 2 Dem., 3 Rep., 1 Unaf.

Alternates: 2 Dem., 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Cherie Woods	77 Northwood Road	R	IMMED.-11/30/11	Vacant (D. Hourigan res. 7-25-08)

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

VIII TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,301.54 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Motion seconded by Councilor Banach. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A Regular Meeting, September 23, 2008

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 23, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

B Regular Meeting, October 14, 2008

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, October 14, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

X WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

Councilor Boni inquired about the police overtime cost in September, which he stated has increased over previous months. Mrs. Harter stated that she would pass the question along to the Town Manager.

Councilor Bowen expressed concern that revenue from the Town Clerk's office could start to dwindle and inquired whether Mrs. Harter is concerned about those numbers. Mrs. Harter replied that the numbers are actually up from the projections, and stated that everything seems to be on track. She stated that she is watching the numbers closely. Councilor Bowen requested that the tracking report he had previously requested be put into graph form. He also inquired whether the Town has received any State Aid for the year. Mrs. Harter replied that the Town has received a small amount of funds and stated that the Town is due to receive further funding at the end of the month. Councilor Bowen inquired whether Mrs. Harter has any concern about receiving the revenues. Mrs. Harter replied in the negative. Councilor Bowen asked whether the one-million dollars for the parking lot project is allocated in any of the accounts. Mrs. Harter replied in the negative and stated that the funds for the project are not budgeted in the general fund.

Councilor Banach requested to obtain a comparison of the number of delinquent tax collection accounts versus last year. Councilor Bottalico inquired as to the percentage of revenue collected from the July tax bills. Mrs. Harter replied that 54.8% of the taxes have been collected as of September, and noted that the second installment will be mailed in January. She stated that the number is right on track from last year.

Mrs. Harter noted that page 1 of 8 of the expenditure report shows a negative encumbrance in error, the encumbrance should be listed as a positive number: \$36,200.

XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nasinnyk reported on the Library Board of Director's meeting:

- The paperback book sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, at the Community Center
- A survey of library services throughout the State showed that Newington is number two among towns with similar population in services offered.
- The Board is starting to look into ideas for uses of the property it acquired last year.

Councilor Cohen reported on the Youth/Adult Council's meeting:

- The Youth/Adult Council is still working on its mini-grant program, and is working to make sure that proposals received comply with the needs to address drinking and tobacco use.

Councilor Banach reported on the Town Planning and Zoning's meeting:

- The TPZ is making headway on the property located on the corner of Day Street and Francis Avenue.

XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)

XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bowen noted Ms. Lyons' previous public participation comments regarding the use of the phone line during Council meetings and stated that he would support putting that phone line to use. He requested that the Town Manager look into what would be involved in getting it set up. Councilor Nasinnyk agreed and remarked that she had inquired about the phone line about a year ago.

Councilor Banach noted that Newington High School has been selected for a "Cool School in the State" award and congratulated the students on their school spirit and the great turnout at the 5:00am news coverage assembly.

Ms. Verreault stated that leaf collection starts on Monday, November 3, for streets west of Willard Avenue (weather permitting), and noted that there will be a second collection after the conclusion of the first collection, weather permitting. She also noted that the parking ban starts on November 1.

Mayor Wright noted that the Town is now accepting applications and nominations for the Volunteer of the Year award. He stated that applications are due by November 21 and are available at the Town Manager's office, Senior Center, Library and on the Town website.

Mayor Wright commented that the Town will now use salt only to treat the roads in the winter and noted that the new salt shed has been built. He commented that the salt is cleaner and better for the environment. Councilor Cohen inquired whether sand will be available to the public. Mayor Wright replied in the affirmative.

XIV EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL (added to agenda)

Councilor Bowen moved to go in to Executive Session Re: Personnel at 8:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent). Mayor Wright and all Councilors except Councilor Nagel were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Bowen moved to go out of Executive Session at 8:27pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Nagel Absent).

XV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Lenares.
Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council